

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/23/2016 5:02:51 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips - Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley pushing House to accept \$400M road-funding plan

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aX7RmA6W

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley is pressuring House GOP leaders to agree to designate \$400 million annually from state tax collections for roadwork, even while she supports their argument that South Carolina's crumbling roads need a better long-term solution. Haley said Wednesday if the House passes the Senate's road-funding proposal, she'll work with legislative leaders to find an acceptable "direct funding stream" for roads. The Senate has refused to pass any gas tax increase.

Post and Courier: House gives final approval to state budget, while Nikki Haley calls on DOT reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160323/PC1603/160329753>

Cynthia Roldan

The S.C. House of Representatives gave final approval to the state's roughly \$7.5 billion budget on Wednesday, but drew Gov. Nikki Haley's ire for going home without agreeing to changes the Senate made to the roads bill. The meeting came just before the House gave final approval to the budget, which sends \$366 million to South Carolina roads, and an additional \$49 million to DOT to make up for money they've already spent on flood-related fixes. Haley lauded the cash stream for roads, but was critical of the House for failing to vote on changes the Senate made to the roads bill before they went home on Wednesday for their yearly two-week break.

The State: Haley continues pressuring House to pass Senate's road-repair plan

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article67811592.html>

Cassie Cope

Gov. Nikki Haley continued to urge S.C. House members Wednesday to agree with a state Senate plan to repair the state's crumbling roads. Haley applauded the House for agreeing late Tuesday night to spend \$415 million in added money on road-repairs. Of that, \$365 million would go to the state Transportation Department, including \$49 million to pay for repairs made after the October floods. Another \$50 million would go to counties to repair less-trafficked roads. "The money is great. But the money doesn't mean anything if we don't reform the agency at hand," Haley said Wednesday, referring to the Transportation Department, now legislatively controlled.

Post and Courier: Haley to feds: Stop sending nuclear materials to South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160323/PC16/160329751/1177/haley-to-feds-stop-sending-nuclear-materials-to-south-carolina>

Derrek Asberry

Fearing that her state is becoming a "permanent nuclear dumping ground," Gov. Nikki Haley told the federal government Wednesday to either stop Japanese shipments of plutonium from going to the Savannah River Site, or reroute the plutonium so that it doesn't enter South Carolina. "It is imperative to the safety of our citizens and our environment that South Carolina not allow this to happen," Haley wrote in a letter to U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. She went on to remind Moniz that South Carolina has already sued him and others for missing a deadline at the SRS Mixed Oxide Fuel

Fabrication Facility.

Associated Press: APNewsBreak: Governor tells feds to stop sending plutonium

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uhwASBm7

Meg Kinnard

Federal officials must stop sending nuclear materials to South Carolina and should reroute a shipment of plutonium coming from Japan, Gov. Nikki Haley told the U.S. government in a letter. The Republican governor's demand is part of a long-running dispute with the federal government over where the materials should be stored. Last month, South Carolina sued the Energy Department, saying it had failed to remove plutonium from the state as promised.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: SC Senate passes refugee registry

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article67809132.html>

Andy Shain

The S.C. Senate approved a refugee registry Wednesday — a day after terrorists bombed a Brussels airport and subway station killing more than 30 people and injuring another 250. The Senate voted 39-6 to start the registry, which could be the first of its kind in the nation. The proposal still needs approval from the S.C. House before going to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley. Haley has expressed concerns about the lack of vetting of refugees to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and FBI Director James Comey. Registry backers said they are concerned about terrorists entering the state under the guise of being refugees.

Post and Courier: S.C. Senate passes bill that will register, track refugees

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160323/PC1603/160329749>

Maya T. Prabhu

By a vote of 39-6, the South Carolina state Senate passed an amended bill that will register and track refugees which may be relocated to the state. An amendment by Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, removed some key concerns for opponents to the bill that still will place refugees resettled in South Carolina on a registry with the S.C. Department of Social Services to be tracked by the state Law Enforcement Division. The bill also creates civil liability for organizations if a refugee from any country who gets settled through their group causes harm. The bill initially would have only made civil liability possible for refugees from countries linked with terrorism, something opponents said was unconstitutional.

The State: S.C. House approves \$1,000 reward for killing coyotes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article67816142.html>

Cassie Cope

South Carolina is one step closer to going to war officially with Wile E. Coyote. The S.C. House approved Wednesday a coyote-bounty program as part of the state budget. The bounty program would make hunters eligible for at least a \$1,000-reward if they killed a tagged coyote. The budget, including the bounty proposal, now goes to the state Senate for consideration.

S.C. Politics News:

McClatchy DC: Fix Fort Jackson's dilapidated barracks, S.C. lawmakers tell Army

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article67818602.html>

Vera Bergengruen

When the Army delayed funding for the renovation of the 44-year-old barracks at its training center at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, housing conditions for recruits continued to deteriorate last

year. Now Sen. Lindsey Graham and Rep. Joe Wilson are urging the Army to make sure that money for the repairs is included in next year's budget. In a joint letter to top Army officials last week, the two Republican South Carolina members of Congress said the result of what they called an erroneous decision was clear.

SC Elections:

Island Packet: U.S. Sen. Tim Scott files for re-election

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/election/article67781767.html>

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott filed paperwork Wednesday to run for re-election, according to information from the S.C. Election Commission. As of Wednesday afternoon, he was the only candidate to file. Scott, a Republican, has served in the Senate since 2013.

Island Packet: Bluffton's Laura Sterling to run for U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn's seat

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/election/article67750652.html>

Lucas High

Bluffton resident Laura Sterling is running for the 6th Congressional District seat, a position held by long-time Democratic leader U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn. Sterling, a Republican, filed her campaign paperwork last week. Clyburn, who was first elected in 1993, has also filed to run for re-election.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Editorial: House needs to correct flaws in Senate roads plan

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article67535782.html>

GOV. NIKKI HALEY may be right to worry that we won't get a roads bill if the House changes the flawed Senate bill. The Senate has become such a dysfunctional mess that it will take a serious commitment by that body's leaders to even get a vote on an amended bill. But to suggest that the House should pretend it is not a co-equal body with the Senate and swallow the Senate plan whole is absurd. To claim that House leaders' refusal to do that is "all about ownership and who came up with the idea" is nonsensical. To say the blame will be "on the House" if the Senate refuses to consider House changes is offensive. The governor might have a point if the Senate plan were perfect — or even close. It is not. Although its reform provisions are better than we could have hoped for, the funding side of the bill is at best irresponsible and at worst fraudulent.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: State high court says domestic violence law is unconstitutional, but unsure of fix

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160323/PC1603/160329778>

Maya T. Prabhu

The chief justice of the S.C. Supreme Court on Wednesday told lawyers from the state Attorney General's office that the domestic violence statute is unconstitutional, but justices struggled to determine the proper way to address the issue. The court heard an argument Wednesday morning to expand the state's domestic violence law to include unmarried, same-sex couples. "Let's cut to the chase," Chief Justice Costa Pleicones said, cutting off Deputy Solicitor General J. Emory Smith Jr. during his opening remarks. "This statute is pretty clearly unconstitutional in its discriminatory practices against same-sex couples."

Post and Courier: New federal rule requires employers to disclose anti-union consultants' work

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160323/PC05/160329772>

David Wren

Boeing South Carolina and other employers nationwide will have to disclose agreements they have with third-party lawyers and consultants hired to help sway workers against union representation under a new rule outlined Wednesday by the U.S. Department of Labor. "Workers should know who

is behind an anti-union message,” U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez said in a statement. “It’s a matter of basic fairness.” Workers often do not know when employers have hired consultants — called “persuaders” by the labor department — to work behind the scenes on creating brochures, drafting letters and coaching executives on how best to get their anti-union messages across, Perez said

The State: US Justice gets \$34 million in medical false claim settlement

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article67752777.html>

John Monk

Respironics Inc., headquartered in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, has agreed to pay \$34.8 million to resolve alleged False Claims Act violations for paying kickbacks in the form of free call center services to durable medical equipment (DME) suppliers that bought its masks for patients with sleep apnea, the Department of Justice announced today. The U.S. Attorney’s office in South Carolina, originated the case, and Justice’s Civil Division’s Commercial Litigation Branch, the federal Health and Human Services Office of Counsel to the Inspector General and the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units also participated.

Note: “The whistleblower in this case lives in South Carolina, and he brought to our attention alleged civil fraud a year and a half ago,” said U.S. Attorney for South Carolina Bill Nettles.

Local News:

Herald-Journal: GSP Airport 'vigilant' after terror attacks in Brussels

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160323/articles/160329871>

Police at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport in Greer are stressing the importance of staying vigilant and observant after terror attacks in Brussels killed at least 30 and injured many more. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not raise the terror threat level after the series of explosions, but airports have reported taking extra steps to ensure safety. GSP police did not change protocol because there was no change to the threat level, but Police Chief Bobby Welborn reiterated the importance of vigilance during each shift change Monday and Tuesday.

Greenville News: Body cam video may not exist in shooting of Greenville police officer

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/03/23/greenville-police-allen-jacobs-body-cam/82155472/>

Romando Dixon

Potential crucial evidence in the shooting of Greenville Police officer Allen Jacobs may not exist because Jacobs camera was damaged in the shooting and his partner's camera was in the patrol car charging when the incident happened, authorities said. So far, authorities have not been able to retrieve video of the fatal encounter between Deontea Mackey and Jacobs, Greenville Police Chief Ken Miller said Wednesday.

Greenville News: Officer Jacobs arrested Mackey in 2015

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/23/jacobs-arrested-mackey-2015/82153760/>

Anna Lee

Last Friday wasn’t the first time Allen Jacobs and Deontea Mackey crossed paths. Jacobs, a Greenville police officer authorities say was fatally shot by Mackey March 18, was the officer who arrested and booked Mackey a year earlier on a robbery charge, according to police reports obtained by The Greenville News. Mackey, who was 16 at the time, pleaded guilty last month to strong arm robbery and was sentenced to 10 years suspended to time served, according to court documents.

Associated Press: Clemson to create anti-hazing program in lawsuit settlement

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mCibHzof

SC State Wire

Clemson University has agreed to create more anti-hazing programs as part of a lawsuit settlement

involving a former soccer player. The Greenville News reported (<http://grnol.co/1Ry6IL2>) the school will spend \$40,000 on the programs after a female soccer player said she was seriously injured in a hazing incident.

The State: Richland Sheriff's Department now has three mobile gizmos

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67747537.html>

John Monk

Their official name is "Sentinel Police Mobility Vehicles," or PMVs, and Richland County Sheriff's Department is apparently the first law enforcement agency in South Carolina to land the electric-powered, three-wheel vehicles. "We have the whole underground parking garage at the (Richland County) courthouse we have to patrol, and we will use one of them there," Sheriff Leon Lott said Wednesday. "This gives us a faster way of getting around than on foot, and it's 100 percent electric, so that will save us money," Lott said. The PMVs are equipped with blue lights, sirens, and a bullhorn hookup. Its top speed is 25 mph, but it can be operated at turtle-like speed. They typically will be run at about 6 mph, especially when used around crowds, Lott said.

The Herald: 1,000-gallon sewage spill contained in Fort Mill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/community/fort-mill-times/article67640057.html>

John Marks

Water testing continues after a wastewater spill in Fort Mill, where more than 1,000 gallons poured into a tributary. "It was a small sewage spill," said Ben Wright, town sewer maintenance supervisor. "It was more than 1,000 gallons. It did reach a small tributary of Dye Creek. We're following (state health department) protocol and sampling." The spill occurred in a wooded ravine near the business park on River Crossing Drive near the intersection of I-77 and Sutton Road. Dye and staff responded to calls from the business park on Monday morning and had the spill stopped by the afternoon.

The Herald: LPL Financial to move into Fort Mill headquarters in October

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/business/article67618032.html>

Deon Roberts

Boston-based LPL Financial is scheduling an October move-in for its new Charlotte-region headquarters in Fort Mill, S.C., chief executive Mark Casady says. With the help of incentives from South Carolina, the firm in 2014 announced plans to relocate its headquarters from southwest Charlotte, where it employs about 1,500. In that announcement, LPL unveiled plans to eventually employ 3,000 at its new campus, where ground was broken early last year.

The State: Fairfield wood mill off the table

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67631587.html>

Sammy Fretwell

An international energy corporation's plan to build a wood pellet mill in Fairfield County suffered what might be a final blow to the fading project after months of opposition from area neighbors. A South Carolina business group bought the land where Abengoa Inc. had sought to locate the pellet mill, according to a local property owner involved in the deal and Fairfield County real estate records. Those following the Abengoa proposal said the land sale likely stops any chance the project will be built in the White Oak community between Columbia and Charlotte.

Aiken Standard: Tom Foster named president of Savannah River Remediation

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160323/AIK0101/160329749>

Nuclear industry veteran Tom Foster has been named president and project manager of Savannah River Remediation, the Savannah River Site's liquid waste contractor. According to a news release issued Wednesday by AECOM, Foster is experienced in leading and managing safe nuclear operations for the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management and Nuclear Security Administration and U.K. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority programs.

Post and Courier: VA hospital plans mobile vet center events around state

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160323/PC16/160329782>

Lauren Sausser

VA officials will set up a mobile clinic in Denmark on Thursday — the first stop in a three-part swing around the state to reach veterans outside the hospital. The mobile vet center will also stop in North Charleston and in Allendale later this month. The events are intended to “provide readjustment counseling and information resources for veterans, as well as offer services that help Veterans make the transition between military and civilian life,” according to a VA press release.

Independent Mail: Strong Anderson area home sales buck national February trend

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/strong-local-home-sales-buck-national-february-trend-2e93008d-bdb9-20b5-e053-0100007f2fff-373211321.html>

Abe Hardesty

Unlike those across the nation, South Carolina real estate agents were busy in February. And few places in the state were busier than the Anderson area. In a month that saw sales of existing homes fall by 7.1 percent nationally, South Carolina Realtors reported an increase of 11.8 percent. The Anderson area sales figures numbers were up a robust 12.1 percent as compared to February 2015, and up 9.4 percent over the January 2016 totals.

The Herald: Lancaster County voters support school plans in referendum

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/article67663627.html>

Jennifer Becknell

Voters in Lancaster County unofficially agreed Tuesday to borrow \$199 million for school projects, including a new high school and elementary school in the fast-growing Indian Land area. Unofficial results showed 5,441 votes in favor of the bond, or about 74 percent, and 1,890 opposed, about 26 percent, according to information provided by Lancaster County school board Chairman Bobby Parker. No results were posted by the Lancaster County elections office as of 9:15 p.m. Tuesday.

National News:

Associated Press: IS trains 400 fighters to attack Europe in wave of bloodshed

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4fe6b297e6e94b6ebe650367946cff23>

Security officials have told The Associated Press that the Islamic State group has trained at least 400 attackers and sent them into Europe for terror attacks. The network of interlocking, agile and semiautonomous cells shows the reach of the extremist group in Europe even as it loses ground in Syria. The officials, including European and Iraqi intelligence officials and a French lawmaker who follows the jihadi networks, describe camps designed specifically to train for attacks against the West. The officials say the fighters have been given orders to find the right time, place and method to carry out their mission.

Associated Press: Brussels mourns, Belgium on alert as police hunt suspect

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:7d170ea35cdb429581272120d8dde3b7>

Raf Casert and Lorne Cook

Belgians began three days of mourning Wednesday for the victims of the Brussels airport and subway bombings, and the country remained on high alert as authorities hunted for one of the suspected attackers seen on surveillance video with two others who blew themselves up.

Associated Press: Obama: US will go after the IS group aggressively

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:f82688d999464fbc548056fe8e8ff5f>

Josh Lederman and Kathleen Hennessey

A day after bombs ripped through Brussels, President Barack Obama declared Wednesday that fighting the Islamic State is his “No. 1 priority” and blasted Republican calls for surveillance of Muslim neighborhoods as counterproductive and contrary to U.S. values. Obama took on presidential

candidate Ted Cruz directly, comparing his proposal for a crackdown on Muslims to the restrictions on religion and free speech in communist Cuba, the nation Cruz's father fled and Obama visited Tuesday.

Associated Press: Company that makes sleep apnea masks to pay \$34M in lawsuit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LW9g9VK1

SC State Wire

A company that makes breathing masks for people with sleep apnea has agreed to pay \$34.8 million to settle claims it paid kickbacks to suppliers that sold its products. Philips Respironics Inc. of Murrysville provided free customer support through its medSage call center to suppliers whose customers used Respironics masks. Suppliers that sold masks made by competitors had to pay for the call center services, which made the suppliers more likely to use Respironics masks, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, which announced the settlement Wednesday.

Note: Dr. Gibran Ameer, a South Carolina pharmacist who has worked for various medical supply companies, filed a whistleblower lawsuit in federal court two years ago and will receive nearly \$5.4 million under the settlement. The federal government will receive more than \$28.7 million. Philips Respironics will also pay about \$660,000 to cover claims by state Medicaid programs.

--

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044